

Dear Friends

October 2001

There is a time to BEGIN and a time to END". This is true for the Korea Scholarship Fund. Raymond has been gone over 4 years. At the meeting of the Board of the KSF in August, it was voted to close the Non-profit Organization, the "Korea Scholarship Fund" on March 1, 2002.

I have written this pamphlet to show how God has blessed the Korea Scholarship Fund and our work at Moon Wha Junior and Senior High School AND to thank ALL of you who through the years have supported us with gifts and prayers. We know that many lives have been changed and new opportunities given to these young people. More than an education, we pray that they have had an opportunity to grow in Christ and be a witness for Him wherever they go.

Even though the KSF will officially end March 1, the Raymond Provost Endowment Fund which was started in 1990 will carry on supplying scholarships at Moon Wha High School.

Until March 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be glad to forward any gifts to Korea to be added to the Endowment Fund:

Korea Scholarship Fund  
11 Wagon Trail  
Black Mountain, NC 28711

After that, funds may be sent directly to:

Mr Sang Soo Huh, Principal  
Moon Wha High School  
717 Chung-hyo Dong  
Kyongju City 780-250 South Korea

Or to: The Presbyterian Mission, Treasurer  
For Moon Wha HS Endowment Fund  
Centennial Memorial Building, Room 202  
135 Yun Ji Dong, Chonggro Ku  
Seoul, 110-470 South Korea

Yours in Christ,



Mariella Provost

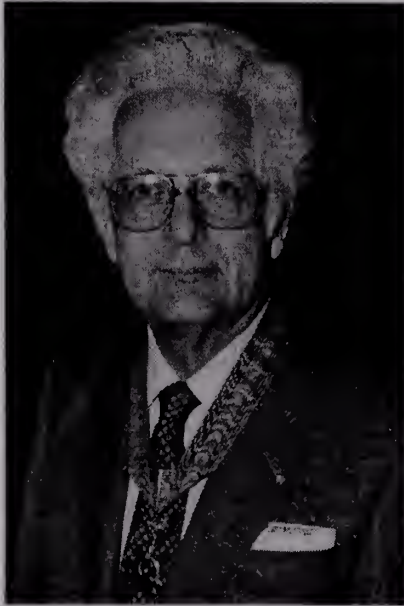


Sowing Seeds  
For Christ  
In Korea  
Through Scholarships



“Any fool can count the seeds in an apple  
but only God can count the apples in a seed”.

Author unknown



Raymond C. Provost, Jr. 1919-1997

*In recognition of and appreciation for his outstanding and meritorious service rendered to the Republic of Korea, I take great pleasure in awarding, in accordance with the powers delegated to me by the Constitution of the Republic of the Korea the*

ORDER OF CIVIL MERIT  
Moran Medal to  
RAYMOND C. PROVOST  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(SIGNED) Chun, Du Whan, President  
The Republic of Korea  
September 20, 1982

## A Brief Account of Raymond's Life

Raymond Provost, Jr. was born in Ashtabula, Ohio. His parents moved to Washington, Pennsylvania when he was a child. There he attended high school and graduated from Washington and Jefferson College. After graduation he moved to Philadelphia and worked as a Research Chemist until he joined the army in 1944. After basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri, he was stationed in Okinawa. When the war ended, he was immediately sent to Korea with the Signal Corp to help set up the communication system.

After discharge, he entered Princeton Seminary, but interrupted his studies when he received a call to go to Seoul to teach Chemistry at Yun Hee College. The day he arrived in Seoul Dr. Horace Underwood met him at the airport and took him immediately to a reception given by President Sigmond Rhee. After he was introduced, the President said, "Mr. Provost, the first time you came to Korea, you came with a gun; now you have come with the Bible." Ray never forgot those words.

Raymond and I met in 1949 and married in 1952. We have four children, David, Jonathan, Elizabeth Anne and Janet and 10 grandchildren. We served as missionaries in Korea until 1965. Then Raymond accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Church of the Straits in Mackinaw City, Michigan. We stayed there for 19 years and retired in Black Mountain, North Carolina. During his years of retirement, he made many trips back to Korea to his beloved Moon Wha High School. He loved Korea and its people very much. It was his wish to be buried behind the school that he started many years before.

This short pamphlet has been written to show how God worked through Raymond to facilitate scholarships to needy boys and girls in Korea with donated funds. A BIG THANKS to all the sponsors and friends who helped us with their prayers and gifts. May God continue to bless the seeds that were planted among the students of Korea.

Written by Mariella Talmage Provost October 2001.

## *A time to begin and a time to end*

Idea from Ecclesiastes 3.

It all began when Raymond Provost first went to Korea in the fall of 1948 as a “short term” missionary. He was living with Dr. and Mrs. Horace Underwood and assigned to teach Chemistry and Bible at Yun Hee College in Seoul (now Yun Sei University). Dr. Underwood said, “If you want to help Korea, help the students get an education.” This was soon after World War II and Korea was trying to recover from 35 years of Japanese suppression. Mission schools once closed were starting up again. In the schools run by the Japanese, the students were not allowed to speak Korean but made to speak Japanese as soon as they entered the campus. The Korean people were thrilled to be allowed to freely attend school again. However, every junior and senior high school charged tuition, so tens of thousands could not afford to attend. Raymond never forgot that advice from Dr. Underwood and made his motto “Helping Koreans help themselves.” As money became available, scholarships were given to needy students.

Less than two years after Raymond arrived in Korea, the Korean War began June 30, 1950. Many of the schools had to be closed again as refugees fled south to safer places. The missionaries were advised to evacuate and went over to Japan. Thanks to the UN Forces, the North Koreans were stopped and driven back above the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. It was not long before medical missionaries and men were allowed to go back to their stations. Missionaries tried to take up their usual work but all found themselves doing some kind of relief work too. Only a few months after we returned to Korea, the Chinese army crossed into Korea and headed south. Again people had to evacuate. Raymond spent many



days and nights driving Korean pastors and their families in the big mission truck out of Seoul to safety. This process proved to be too slow. Fortunately, Raymond was able to get the remaining 1200 pastors and their families on a boat out of Inchon. As soon as these friends were safe on board, he returned to Seoul to the mission compound. There, the few remaining missionaries were eating lunch when word came from the American Embassy that all Americans should evacuate immediately. Again the missionaries found themselves in Japan, but as soon as the Chinese were pushed back, missionaries were able to return.



During those months, the Korean people suffered so much. Since the college had to be closed, Raymond spent most of his time visiting refugee camps and taking pictures for "Presbyterian Life".



This picture appeared on the cover of Presbyterian Life

In 1951 Raymond returned to the States to complete his seminary studies at Princeton. At that time, Raymond and I were engaged. I was a medical missionary at the Jesus Hospital in Chunju. I continued working in Korea until my furlough. On May 31, 1952, we were married in Montreat, NC. Raymond still had another year at Princeton. After he completed his studies, he was ordained in the Flourtown Presbyterian Church in June 1953. In September we returned to Korea.

On our return to the mission field, we were assigned to Taegu. This city was known as the “orphan city” because there were nearly a hundred orphanages in the area. It was not long before we found ourselves on the Board of four World Vision orphanages. The \$5 that each child received from World Vision plus the government rations, fed and clothed the children but could not pay the \$3 a month for a junior or senior high school education. With the gifts we received from friends in the States, we offered scholarships to any of these students who were smart enough to pass the entrance exams at our mission schools (about 1 out of 5 was accepted). This was the real beginning of our scholarship program.

### ***OUR FIRST STUDENT***

It was only a few weeks after we arrived in Taegu that we became acquainted with “John”. He once lived in a small village in North Korea. He was the only son of a farmer. When he was 11 years old, he and some older friends were playing on the hillside when they heard gun shots as Communist soldiers entered

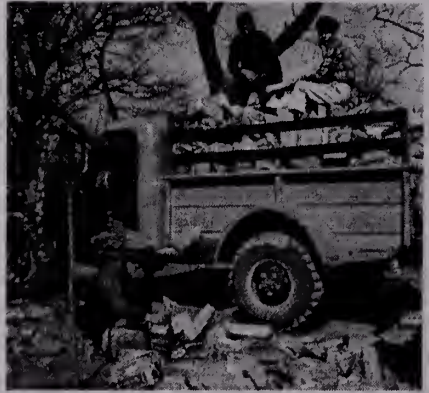




the village. Hearing the noise, the boys ran to the next village, thinking they would return home the next day. But things got worse so they kept running and finally found themselves on the streets in South Korea never to see their families again. With no money, they roamed the streets begging for food and sleeping wherever they could. This went on for 18 months. One evening John went by a church and heard singing so he went inside (He had attended Sunday School as a child). He was dirty and in rags, but the people accepted him. The pastor of the church had an orphanage and took John there to start a new life. The director of the orphanage noticed John's desire to study and brought him to us to see if we could help get him into school. Raymond bought him a new uniform and he entered the Mission Boy's Middle School. He came to our house often and was a big brother to our kids. He graduated from our High School, then served in the Army. Later John made his way over to Florida to attend a Bible College. Today he is a pastor working with Koreans near Miami. He never saw his parents again. If they are alive, wouldn't they be surprised to know how his life had been changed?

During those early days in Taegu, Raymond wrote to "Presbyterian Life" and asked for used Christmas cards. Much to our surprise, they started to come by the truckload. Soon our basement was full, then our garage and finally we had to take them down to the mission's warehouse. Raymond was up in Seoul at Language School. When he came back, he rounded up some Bible Institute students. All day they opened packages and stamped the words of John 3:16 in Korean and bundled them in groups of 100. Before Christmas, one million cards had been given out to churches, hospitals and the Korean army.

A truck load of cards arrive from the post office. Students help unload them.



Even though Raymond was still studying the language, he was assigned to Kyong Dong Presbytery, a rural presbytery east of Taegu. There he was named the Honorary Principal of the Kyongju Bible Institute. The school was meeting in an old Japanese hotel. A few years later, Ray's father's church, The Church of the Covenant, in Washington, Pennsylvania, raised money to build a campus. What a blessing that was for Kyong Dong Presbytery! The students were very poor and could not attend a regular high school. From this school, God raised up many dedicated leaders to serve Him in Korea and around the world. This land today houses the Kyong Dong Presbytery office and a Retreat Center. Thanks to the wonderful people that made this possible.

In the meantime in Taegu, Dr. Archibald Campbell started Keimyung College. It took only \$15 a month to help a student with tuition during those early days. A number of scholarships were offered to deserving students from our Presbytery for them to continue their education. We still keep in touch with some who are now pastors and serving the Lord in Korea, Brazil, China and America.



Our first group of scholarship students in 1957

Students at Princeton Seminary collected money and sent it to us for our work. With it we bought a large Korean house to use as a dormitory for the high school students who came into Taegu from the country. A wonderful Christian widow, Mrs. Keun Ae Kim, became the dormitory matron. She had three school age sons who also received scholarships. Mrs. Kim was a talented seamstress and supervised making 500 pajamas for the orphans and then dozens of pajamas for the hospital. Women in our widow's home helped to sew them up. Gifts from America made this project possible, too.



Mrs. Kim and Raymond on a later trip back to Korea

Many of our students have interesting stories to tell but I can not tell them all. However, I want to share the story of Pak, Kap-Yong, a “Light that Shines in Korea.”

Kap-Yong lost his sight as a small boy, possibly from smallpox. Because of his blindness his parents believed he had no value. They took him to the city and left him on the street. The police found the crying boy and took him to an orphanage. For many years, he had a difficult life. One of our missionaries, Mrs. Linton, found someone who could teach him Braille. Later when we moved to Taegu, he was brought over to the Blind School that was run by World Vision. That is when he became “my boy”. After he completed all that the Blind School had to offer, I asked him what he wanted to do next. His reply was, “Go to the Bible Institute”. There had never been a blind student in the Bible Institute but they were willing to take him if he had someone to help him. A scholarship was offered to a deserving student to assist him. While there, he often returned to the Blind School to teach the younger children Bible verses. One January, he came to me and asked if I would save one dollar from his monthly allowance as he wanted to have something to give the children at the Blind School who had memorized Bible verses. In December that year, I offered to host a party for those children in our living room. He was delighted and what a party we had with beef noodle soup, hot chocolate, cookies and an apple. After we ate, these precious young blind children each got up and recited the Bible verses they had learned. What a joyful evening that was for all of us.

Kap-Yong was a faithful student and graduated with honors. After graduating from the Bible Institute, he entered the

Night Seminary. Since the Seminary didn't have a dormitory, a room had to be rented and he continued to have a student help him, not only with his studies but also with his cooking.

Every day he prayed that God would send him a wife. Finally God did answer his prayers and he was married to a lovely Christian girl right in our home. He served as an evangelist in a small country church until he was ordained and became pastor of a church in Taegu where the membership was made up mostly of blind people.

On one of my trips back to Korea, I visited his church. It was a very moving experience for me to see him preaching from his Braille notes, listening to the choir who sang from Braille hymnbooks and watching blind deacons take up the offering. What a joy to see what God had done in the life of Kap-Yong. In spite of many hardships, he has truly been a light that has shown for Christ.





And then there was Kim, Ki-Dae. Ki-Dae was stricken with Polio when he was young. I found him in an orphanage unable to stand or walk. On good days, the children pulled him in a wagon to school. He was brought to the World Vision Hospital in Taegu where he stayed for two years. He had several operations and finally was able to walk with crutches. While in the hospital he studied on his own. When he was well enough, he entered our Moon Wha Junior High School in Kyongju and lived in the dormitory. Although all the other boys slept on the floor, an iron cot was provided for him since he had such difficulty getting up from the floor.

Life was not easy for Ki-Dae either. After graduation he was given a job in the Taegu Hospital but while there, he developed TB. Friends took care of him until he recovered. From time to time he was able to get small odd jobs. Then friends helped him get an old motorcycle. He used this motorcycle to go to work and go every Sunday to a small church where he served as an evangelist.

Today, Ki-Dae works with handicapped people in Taegu.





## *Beginning Of Moon Wha High School*

In the summer of 1960, a defunct, bankrupt high school became available in Kyongju. The members of Kyong Dong Presbytery realized that this was their opportunity to have a Christian Middle and Senior High School. However, there was no money to obtain this school. Raymond and I were vacationing at Taechun Beach on the east coast when a delegation from the Presbytery arrived at our house. They were very excited and wanted us to help. We had no money and did not see where we could get any; so we were not very encouraging. They went back to Kyongju only to return a few days later with more enthusiasm and more persuasion. Raymond liked their ideas, and really wanted to help. It sounded great but where would the money come from? We said we would pray about it. The men returned home hopeful and excited.

When our vacation was over, we returned to Taegu. It was a 12-hour trip back from Taechun over rough dirt roads and we were tired. We started going through our mail that had arrived in our absence. On the top of the pile was a letter from a large Presbyterian Church in San Diego, California. We had never visited that church. But here was a letter from the pastor saying that our name was listed in the "Mission Prayer Book" that day. They prayed for us and felt led to send a check for \$1,000. What a surprise and what a great unexpected gift. This was a miracle that assured us God was opening doors to start this Christian School.

When Raymond went to see the property, literally there was nothing. There was an old Japanese warehouse and an old

two-story building that could be temporarily used for offices. The property was being used as a public oxen auction facility. Every five days there would probably be 200-300 head of oxen sold. In order to get this market off the property we had to buy a piece of land elsewhere for them to use.

When we purchased the school, it was not operating. We bought the government-issued charter and the land. All the classroom buildings had been torn down by people wanting firewood. The school had closed and the staff had long gone. We needed money to pay off some debts and build classrooms. We started writing letters to supporting churches and personal friends. We also sent out letters to all the 45 churches in Kyong Dong Presbytery telling them that we were starting a Christian School in Kyongju. Miracle after miracle occurred. In October of 1960, the school opened. Raymond was approved by the Educational Department as the principal. To help him there was a head teacher, a businessman, a chaplain and a few dedicated teachers. Hastily, some temporary classrooms were erected. The roof of the building was made from old (US Army) beer cans, flattened out. On registration day, 250 students came!!

Thus Moon Wha was started as a Christian School under the care of Kyong Dong Presbytery. The regular government curriculum was taught and we were free to have regular worship services and Bible studies. This was a real opportunity for Christian witness in that part of rural Korea.

This school was in a small country town with trains arriving in three directions every morning. At the beginning, a third of the students walked to school, a third rode their bicycles and the rest came by train. So it was decided that school

should start when the trains arrived and finish when the trains left in the afternoon.

Mrs. Logan Wheatley, from Fullerton, California, had been helping the children in an orphanage in Pohang through a Military Chaplain. When the base closed, she sent her money to us. When Moon Wha School was started, we purchased a large Korean house just outside Moon Wha and moved all the boys over to Kyongju. Here Mrs. Wheatley found sponsors for each of the boys to cover both the tuition and dormitory expense. At that time this meant only \$10 a month!!! A Christian widow became the dormitory matron and she and her son moved in. There was still room for other worthy students to join them.



The boys in the Kyongju dormitory with their faculty advisor and "Dorm Mom" in 1963

Because Raymond had to spend so much time out in Kyongju and away from the family, the Mission gave money for a small house to be built. Here Raymond could sleep, cook and the family could come out over the weekends and on holidays. It had typical Korean heated floors so we all slept on these warm floors.



Our family in 1963: Mariella, Raymond, Jonathan, Elizabeth Anne and David standing in front of the little house

In 1961, Raymond took his vacation by coming to the States and visiting many churches. He told about the new Christian school that was being started in rural Korea. When he returned he had enough money to start building a two-story 18-classroom building. The government gave the cement; so the work proceeded quickly. As more money came in, more buildings were built. The student body kept growing and the Christian witness spread. Even though many of the students were not Christians when they entered, many proclaimed Christ before they graduated.

Here is a picture of two young cousins who entered Moon Wha as 7<sup>th</sup> graders. They learned about Christ and then during Christmas vacation went to visit their grandfather up in the mountains. They witnessed to him and he came to Kyongju to learn more about this “Good News”.



The grandfather and his two grandsons standing by the cross at the front of the outdoor chapel at Moon Wha



In the summer of 1963, we came home on furlough. Our youngest child, Janet, was born while in Cleveland. In 1965 Raymond resigned from the mission board to become the pastor of the Church of the Straits in Mackinaw City, Michigan, but his interest and work in Korea continued.

In Korea, Dr. Young Nae Chey, Raymond's head teacher and one of his closest colleagues, became the principal of Moon Wha. Under Dr. Chey's direction, the school continued to grow. Raymond kept in touch and returned whenever he could.

While in Mackinaw City, Raymond was given permission by the Mackinac Presbytery to raise money for scholarships for needy students in Korea. We spoke often in the churches within the Presbytery and many of the churches, women's groups and individuals became sponsors.

In January 1973 the non-profit organization, "The Korea Scholarship Fund", was started. In our spare time, we wrote letters to friends throughout the country and soon more than 200 sponsors were obtained. At about that same time, a dear lady from Jackson, Michigan died. We had never met her personally but she had sent used Christmas cards to us in Korea, so she was on our mailing list. In her will, she left our program a nice sum of money. With this, we were able to help many students and also acquire some much needed office equipment. Thus we started in the "electronic world". What a help that was in getting letters written!!!. Raymond was busy at the church, so this secretarial work was left mostly to me.



With so many worthy students in Korea needing help with tuition, we decided to expand our program to four other areas. The largest area was through the Rural Life Committee of the General Assembly of the Korea Presbyterian Church. Here we offered scholarships to the children of rural pastors and evangelists. The money helped these low paid Christian workers to educate their children. As the economy in Korea improved, and we grew older, we started cutting back the program to concentrate on Moon Wha High School.

After Raymond retired in 1984, he returned to his beloved school often and volunteered in any way he could. He could only stay 3 months at a time without a permanent visa. Sometimes, I would go with him, but often I stayed behind to keep the “home fires burning” and keep up with the KSF administration.

Moon Wha was originally built at the edge of the small town of Kyongju. As the years passed, Kyongju became a large and famous city. It was the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, having unified the country in 668 AD. This period lasted until 936 AD when it was overthrown by the Kingdom of Koryo. Under the Japanese rule, this part of the Korean history was not taught. In 1945 when World War II ended Korea obtained its independence. It was in the early 1970s that the National Government started restoring this ancient city. Throughout the area are hundreds of old temples, ruins and tombs that date back to the first century.

In 1990, the city officials asked the school to move. Our school was in the middle of this growing city and the land had become very valuable. The city developers offered to

build a whole new campus out in the country in exchange for the present land. How could anyone resist such an offer? It took several years to find some appropriate land, move the graves, level the ground and build a new campus. Raymond was excited to be consulted in the planning and design.

In the spring of 1996, the school moved. Today Moon Wha Junior and Senior High School has a beautiful campus with modern equipment. Besides the classroom buildings and a large auditorium, there is a gymnasium, a dormitory and several facility homes.

In the fall of 1996, Raymond and I, with all our children, and other family members went out for the dedication. In honor of Raymond a bust was erected in front of the auditorium. However, just before that trip, Raymond was found to have inoperable cancer. He was under medication, but we are all thankful that he was able to see the new campus.



## Moon Wha High School in Pictures



Three men with faith and vision  
Elder Pyun, Raymond and Rev.Pak



Boys playing in front of  
the first classroom building



A student stands to recite  
in a crowded classroom



Ground breaking for the  
new 18 classroom building



First section of the eighteen  
classroom building 1963



Classroom building and  
Auditorium complete



First Moon Wha campus in growing city



Teaching in Grace Pak's English class



A warm welcome



Property for new school



Groundbreaking for new campus



New Middle School Building

This 100-year old tree  
was one of many trees  
moved from the old  
campus

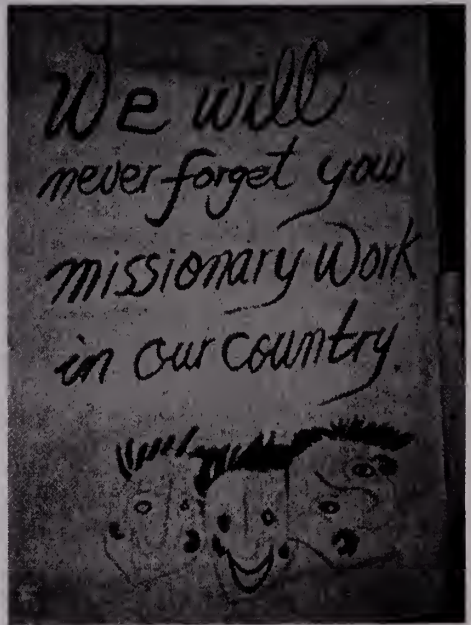






Entrance to new Moon Wha campus 1996

This poster was  
created by one of our  
students







Raymond with  
Dr. Jonathan Kim, a faculty  
member of Moon Wha.  
He is an English professor  
and helped with  
many translations.



Mr. Huh, Moon Wha principal, presents a scholarship  
from the Provost Endowment Fund

For almost 30 years this organization has provided scholarships for more than a thousand young Korean boys and girls. This has been a program that was served by volunteers. Because our work for the Korea Scholarship Fund was not our primary ministry, but an inspiring secondary mission for us, there was never salaries or rent to pay. Members of the Board and many volunteers have also given their time.

To continue the work of the Korea Scholarship Fund, an endowment has been created. The Provost Endowment Fund is now providing scholarships to deserving Moon Wha students and with the grace of God will continue to provide assistance for many years to come.

A pastor in a large church in Taegu, who was a recipient of one of our scholarships, wrote in a letter,

*Any fool can count the seeds in an apple  
but only God can count the apples in a seed.*

God only knows how many apples have come from the seeds that were planted through these young lives. Our prayer is that as these apples grow, more seeds will be planted for Jesus Christ, not only in Korea but throughout the world.

“To God be the Glory, Great Things He has done”



Dr. Chey and  
Raymond in front  
of statue at Moon  
Wha

Hr. Huh, Sang Soo  
standing beside  
Raymond's grave



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